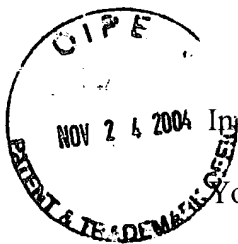


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 5172

Yoshiyasu KURAMOTO et al. : Docket No. 20000917A

Serial No. 09/582,586 : Group Art Unit 2616

Filed June 28, 2000 : Examiner James A. Fletcher

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AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

Sir:

Responsive to the Office Action dated August 25, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT

Please replace the original specification and abstract with the attached substitute specification and abstract.